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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/095,325	06/10/98	EGGLESTON	G PD05513AWD01

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EXAMINER

CARDONE, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED:

10/13/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/095,325

Applicant(s)
Eggleston et al.

Examiner
Jason D. Cardone

Group Art Unit
2152



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 7, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 26-32 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 26-32 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 26-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes et al. "Barnes", U.S. Patent No. 4,888,681, in view of Srinivasan, U.S. Patent No. 5,548,506.

3. Regarding claim 26, Barnes discloses a method of controlling communications between an electronic communication server and communication units, the method, at the electronic communication server [Barnes, col. 2, line 42 - col. 3, line 64, col. 7, line 19 - col. 8, line 57, and col. 11, line 46 - col. 12, line 69], comprising:

assigning a use limit for group resources of a first group, wherein the first group has a predetermined number of users [Barnes, col. 8, lines 4-58, col. 11, lines 46-67, and col. 19, lines 8-19];

allowing users belonging to the first group to draw on unused group resources [Barnes, col. 8, lines 4-58, col. 11, lines 46-67, and col. 19, lines 8-19];

monitoring the use limit for group resources to determine if the use limit for group resources is exceeded [Barnes, col. 12, lines 17-69 and col. 19, line 40 - col. 20, line 20]; and

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terminating communication between the electronic communication server and the communication units when the use limit for group resources is exceeded [Barnes, col. 9, lines 24-65, col. 12, lines 17-69, and col. 20, line 46 - col. 21, line 37].

4. Barnes does not specifically disclose groupware communications. However, Srinivasan, in the same field of endeavor, discloses a groupware communications with an Auto Multi-Project Server (AMPS) [Srinivasan, col. 5, line 18 - col. 8, line 24]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate groupware communications, taught by Srinivasan, in to the system, taught by Barnes, in order to specifically control different groups. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Barnes to include groupware communications in view of Srinivasan, so that the system could be used by multiple groups.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Barnes and Srinivasan (Barnes-Srinivasan) to obtain the invention as specified in claim 26.

5. Regarding claim 27, Barnes-Srinivasan further discloses the use limit for group resources is based on a data transmission size of electronic mail messages received and transmitted [Barnes, col. 9, lines 24-65, col. 12, lines 17-69, and col. 20, line 46 - col. 21, line 37] [Srinivasan, col. 6, lines 3-57].

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6. Regarding claim 28, Barnes-Srinivasan further discloses the use limit for group resources is based on an allocated expense for transmitting and receiving electronic mail messages [Barnes, col. 9, lines 24-65, col. 12, lines 17-69, and col. 20, line 46 - col. 21, line 37] [Srinivasan, col. 6, lines 3-57].

7. Regarding claim 29, Barnes-Srinivasan further discloses assigning each user in the first group an individual use limit; and monitoring the individual use limit of each user [Barnes, col. 8, lines 4-58, col. 11, lines 46-67, and col. 19, lines 8-19] [Srinivasan, col. 5, line 18 - col. 8, line 24].

8. Regarding claim 30, Barnes-Srinivasan further discloses applying the individual use limit for individual electronic mail messages [Barnes, col. 8, lines 4-58, col. 11, lines 46-67, and col. 19, lines 8-19] [Srinivasan, col. 6, lines 3-57].

9. Regarding claim 31, Barnes-Srinivasan further discloses applying the individual use limit for individual electronic mail messages; and applying the use limit for group resources for groupware data transfers [Barnes, col. 8, lines 4-58, col. 11, lines 46-67, and col. 19, lines 8-19] [Srinivasan, col. 5, line 18 - col. 8, line 24].

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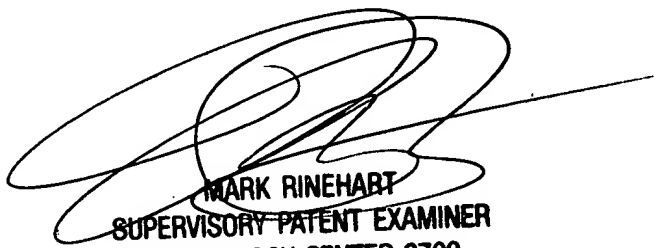
10. Regarding claim 32, Barnes-Srinivasan further discloses the use limit for group resources for groupware data transfers [Barnes, col. 7, line 19 - col. 8, line 57 and col. 11, line 46 - col. 12, line 69] [Srinivasan, col. 5, line 18 - col. 8, line 24].

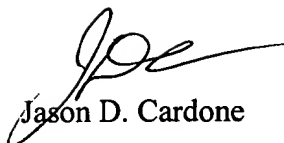
Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason D. Cardone, whose telephone number is (703) 305-8484. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart, can be reached on (703) 305-4815.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.


MARK RINEHART
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2700


Jason D. Cardone

October 3, 2000